

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 01752 110833Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 L-01
PRS-01 USIE-00 SP-02 SSO-00 INRE-00 /036 W
-----110836Z 121242 /17
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5218

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1752

LIMDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IS
SUBJECT: FURTHER LIKUD COMPLAINTS OF AMERICAN PARTIALITY

REF: TEL AVIV 1217

1. LIKUD LEADERS CONTINUE TO EXHIBIT PIQUE AT RABIN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON. ON MARCH 8 LIKUD CAMPAIGN CHAIRMAN EZER WEIZMAN PUBLICLY SUGGESTED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S INVITATION TO RABIN CONSTITUTED INTERFERENCE IN ISRAEL'S POLITICAL CAMPAIGN. WHILE THIS CRITICISM CAN BE LARGELY DISCOUNTED AS ELECTIONEERING (LIKUD HAS RAISED THE VISIT REPEATEDLY IN THE KNESSET AND BEGIN HIMSELF RAPPED THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION LAST WEEK ON THE INVITATION), IT IS ONLY THE LATEST OF SEVERAL SIGNS OF DISGRUNTLEMENT AMONG LIKUD LEADERS WITH RECENT U.S. BEHAVIOR AFFECTING THEM.

2. ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO I REPORTED THAT BEGIN HAD EXPRESSED UNHAPPINESS TO ME ABOUT A JERUSALEM POST STORY INDICATING THAT WASHINGTON OFFICIALS WERE DISPLEASED WITH THE PROSPECT OF HIS HEADING THE NEXT GOVERNMENT (REFTEL). IN A RECENT CONVERSATION A LIKUD CONTACT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 01752 110833Z

VOICED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT SECRETARY VANCE DID NOT SEE BEGIN DURING HIS VISIT HERE. REMINDED OF THE BREVITY OF THE VISIT, THE LIKUDNIK, WHO IS VERY CLOSE TO BEGIN, COUNTERED THAT IF THE SECRETARY FOUND TIME TO SEE GOLDA, HE COULD ALSO HAVE SEEN BEGIN. "AFTER ALL, BEGIN IS NOT ONLY THE HEAD OF A MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY; HE IS THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION."

3. SOME SORT OF GESTURE TOWARD THE LIKUD--SPECIFICALLY
BEGIN--WOULD NOW BE TIMELY. BEGIN IS PRESENTLY ON A
PRIVATE VISIT TO CANADA AND EN ROUTE BACK TO ISRAEL HE
WILL PAY A BRIEF VISIT TO HIS SON WHO IS ATTENDING
SCHOOL AT FORT COLLINS, COLORADO. I SUGGEST THAT CONSID-
ERATION BE GIVEN TO SOMEONE AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL
PHONING BEGIN DURING HIS STAY IN FORT COLLINS. HE IS
EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AT FORT COLLINS EARLY IN THE AFTERNOON
(COLORADO TIME) OF MARCH 11 AND LEAVE FOR NEW YORK AND
PARIS ON MARCH 13. HE WILL BE STAYING WITH HIS SON AND
CAN BE REACHED AT (303) 482 0455.
DUNNIGAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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